

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 AMMAN 00433 271017Z

21

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

AID-05 IGA-02 /071 W

----- 045554

R 260744Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6760

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY SANA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

SECDEF WASHDC

CNO

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

COMIDEASTFOR

S E C R E T AMMAN 0433

KUWAIT POUCH BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, BA,JO

SUBJECT: REGIONAL SUPPORT FOR MIDEASTFOR

REF: STATE 017267 (DTG 230403 JAN 76)

1. JORDAN TRADITIONALLY WELCOMES VISIT OF U.S.
MILITARY REPRESENTATIVES SUCH AS MIDEASTFOR'S
USS LASALLE AND SIMILAR EXPRESSIONS OF FRIENDLY U.S.

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SECRET

PAGE 02 AMMAN 00433 271017Z

MILITARY INTEREST IN THE REGION. GOJ'S CURRENT FOREIGN

POLICY IN THE MIDDLE EAST, HOWEVER, WOULD DISCOURAGE IT FROM GETTING OUT IN FRONT OF OTHER ARAB STATES IN SUPPORT FOR RETENTION OF MIDEASTFOR FACILITIES IN BAHRAIN. THIS IS PARTICULARLY TRUE WITH RESPECT TO ARAB GULF STATES WHO HAVE CLOSE RELATIONS WITH JORDAN IN SECURITY FIELD AND PROVIDE HEAVY FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR JORDAN. THE EMBASSY NOTES GOJ, DESPITE UNDOUBTED INTEREST IN THE PROGRAM, HAS DECIDED NOT TO ACCEPT MIDEASTFOR OFFER OF OJT FOR JORDANIAN COAST GUARD WHICH MAY INDICATE SOME POLITICAL RETICENCE TO BECOME TOO CLOSELY IDENTIFIED WITH MIDEASTFOR IN LIGHT OF ITS PERCEPTION OF ATTITUDES OF OTHER ARABS, ESPECIALLY IN THE GULF.

2. ON THE OTHER HAND, JORDAN IS ANTI-COMMUNIST AND PARTICULARLY OPPOSED TO LEFTIST IRAQI INFLUENCE IN THE GULF. TO THE EXTENT IT CAN BE BROUGHT TO VIEW PRESENCE OF MIDEASTFOR AS ESSENTIALLY RELATED TO OPPOSING THOSE AMBITIONS, IT CAN BE EXPECTED TO SYMPATHIZE WITH OUR PRESENCE IN GULF. SIMILARLY, JORDAN MIGHT WELL BE MORE INCLINED TO SUPPORT MIDEASTFOR PRESENCE IF PERSUADED OF USEFULNESS OF THAT PRESENCE IN RELATION TO JORDAN'S OWN SECURITY ROLE IN GULF, I.E., MAINTAINING STABILITY AND CONTINUATION IN POWER OF TRADITIONAL, CONSERVATIVE RULERS.

3. IN SUM, GOJ, WE BELIEVE, AT THIS POINT WOULD PROBABLY ADD ITS ENCOURAGEMENT TO GULF STATES THAT EXPRESSED INTEREST IN RETAINING THOSE FACILITIES, BUT IT WOULD LIKELY BE DISINCLINED ITSELF TO TAKE ANY LEAD IN INITIATIVES. JORDAN, HOWEVER, IS APPRECIATIVE OF PAST AND PRESENT U.S. SUPPORT FOR JORDANIAN SECURITY ROLE IN GULF AND WE DO NOT DISCOUNT POSSIBILITY WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO PERSUADE KING HUSSEIN TO SUPPORT U.S. POSITIONS, PARTICULARLY IF WE CAN SHOW HIM THERE IS SOME REAL SUPPORT FOR OUR POSITION IN GULF. WE WOULD EXPECT MOST REALISTICALLY USEFUL ROLE FOR JORDAN WOULD BE PRIVATELY TO ENCOURAGE BAHRAIN AND POSSIBLY WITH IRAN, WHERE KING HAS SOME INFLUENCE AND CLOSE FRIENDSHIP WITH RULERS, TO FAVOR CONTINUING PRESENCE OF MIDEASTFOR. JORDAN IS LESS INFLUENTIAL

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SECRET

PAGE 03 AMMAN 00433 271017Z

WITH SAUDIS, ALTHOUGH KING HUSSEIN MIGHT HAVE SOME EFFECT IF ISSUE OF MIDEASTFOR PRESENCE WAS RAISED IN CONTEXT OF MUTUAL CONCERNS OVER IRAQI AND SOVIET AMBITIONS IN AREA.

PICKERING

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NNN

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